

been waging a deadly insurgency and attacking Shiite citizens and mosques. In response, Shiite commando units, some of which are affiliated with the government, have been conducting reprisal attacks against mosques and civilians in Sunni communities. The sectarian 'cleansing' of various cities around the country has driven tens of thousands of Iraqis to flee their homes.

"There can be no victors in a full-scale sectarian conflict in Iraq. One only has to recall the tragedy that was Lebanon's 15-year civil war to know that all parties will be the losers in a sectarian war. Even the minute personal gains achieved by trigger-happy gunmen will be erased whenever men with bigger guns come along to exact their revenge.

"Iraqis are currently heading in the same direction as the Lebanese were in 1975. And sadly, they have no one to turn to but themselves if they want to avoid civil war. They cannot turn to the U.S. military and ask it to use its muscle, because that will only stoke more intercommunal hostilities. Iraq's neighbors, who during a meeting over the weekend failed to offer the Iraqi people any tangible assistance, proved that they are unwilling to do much more than issue rhetorical statements. The responsibility of avoiding full-scale civil war rests squarely on the laps of Iraqis. During this volatile period, it is crucial that all Iraqi leaders act responsibly and refrain from inflammatory acts and statements that can only make matters worse."

Now, it is clear from this editorial and from all the papers if you read them in the Middle East that the longer we stay there, the longer the violence goes on. If we want peace, if we want a stable government for the Iraqi people, if we want a society to develop in a civil way, we must begin the process of getting out. We cannot say we are going to stay there until it is quiet because it is clear from editorials like this one in *The Daily Star* and many other newspapers across the Middle East that it will not happen as long as we stay.

We are considered the occupiers. The government is considered one that we created. Our fear, down at 1600 Pennsylvania, is that if we go, they will create a government that we do not like. But democracy requires that you trust the people to choose their own government.

We will talk more about this in an hour from now.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LYNCH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the *Extensions of Remarks*.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. MCKINNEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MCKINNEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the *Extensions of Remarks*.)

BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that and this evening we are going to spend some time talking about the issue of border security, and it is important to our great Nation; but before I begin, I would like to take just a few moments of personal privilege and remember a friend that my community lost over the weekend.

REMEMBERING SUNTRUST'S BRIAN WILLIAMS

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, our community of Nashville, Tennessee, and the Nashville banking industry lost an entrepreneurial banker, Brian Williams, who was the Music Row banker for SunTrust Bank, and he was such an extraordinary, truly extraordinary, man. Certainly, we feel that we have lost a visionary in not only the banking industry but in the music business industry.

Brian is one of those who really understood that the entertainment industry and the music industry is a business, and he approached it that way and he pioneered the music industry's banking division for SunTrust Bank.

He is a man who I honestly believe in all my years of working on the intellectual property issue, whether as head of the Tennessee Film Entertainment Music Commission or as a member of the State Senate or now as a Member of Congress, he understood the ability of intellectual property to generate an income. He understood that intellectual property is private property, and he understood how royalty income could indeed work for our creative community.

He is truly going to be deeply, deeply missed and to his wife, Marion, and his parents, our thoughts are with you all.

Now, to our issue of immigration. Mr. Speaker, the question that we have before us is one that we are looking at as an issue of border security, and I feel that many times this issue becomes clouded as we try to talk about so many different components of border security and immigration and illegal entry into the country and employer verification. Sometimes looking at the great big pie, the great big pie of the border security/immigration issue, all rolled into one, becomes very, very difficult for many of us.

We have started through a process of beginning to break it apart and take things one at a time and focus intently on this issue; and, indeed, it is an issue that we have had before us. As a former Member of the Judiciary Committee and the Immigration Subcommittee there, we have kept our focus on how

do we make certain that we keep this Nation secure, how do we make certain that border security is addressed as national security, and how do we keep America safe, how do we make certain that we know who is coming in this country, how do we make certain that we know why they are coming and how do we make certain that we know the people who have come here have come for the right reasons, have come with the proper paperwork and do not overstay those visas and that paperwork.

This is a question to look at. It is a discussion to engage in and it is an issue that I would hope every Member of this body, from both sides of the aisle, would participate in discussing and finding a solution.

Of course, the House has passed a bill. We passed it last year. We sent it to the Senate. It has first and foremost a focus on securing this border. We know that this is a problem that the American people are frustrated with. They are frustrated with D.C. and I understand why. We are, too. Some of these issues you can absolutely talk to death. The American people are ready for action, and indeed, the House is the body that has been leading on that action.

As we have watched illegal entry, the act of illegal entry, and that is our focus, as I said earlier, it is not immigration, our focus is on illegal entry, and addressing the act that is being committed as individuals, as weapons, as drugs all come into this country illegally, this is an enormous problem. It is not a secret. The American people know this, and that is why they have joined with the House in saying this needs to be handled.

Mr. Speaker, lack of action on this issue over the past few years and lack of responsiveness by some who want to confuse it by making it a big comprehensive, difficult-to-get-your-arms-around issue has caused a couple of things to happen, but that is the way it is many times, in life, in politics, and certainly in this issue of security.

The fact that action was not taken when the House first got ready to move forward and that we have seen thousands and hundreds of thousands of people illegally enter this country has caused every town to be a border town and every State to be a border State.

When I was in the State senate in Tennessee, I started working on this issue, trying to make certain that those that illegally entered this country could not secure valid driver's licenses and then have carried that activity with me, coming here to Congress and again continuing to focus on this issue.

As I said, every State is a border State, and we are hearing from States like my State of Tennessee and other States around the country. Border security is the number one issue. We have seen enormous populations of people who are not legally in the States gravitate to certain States for specific reasons, and Americans know that